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riente," as the Spanish say, with their intimates, they were inclined to reticence towards strangers and towards the world in general. From this cause probably they acquired the reputation with some people of being eccentric. With scholarly instincts, they may be said to have lived lives apart from their ordinary outward lives, as seen in their intercourse with their fellows. I think this view accounts sufficiently for any eccentricities they may have seemed to exhibit.

MEMORIAL SKETCH OF DR. JOHN S. GRIFFIN,
BY H. D. BARROWS.

Another good man is gone. Dr. John Strother Griffin, for many years an eminent physician and surgeon of Los Angeles and a pioneer of 1846, died August 23, 1898, at his home in East Los Angeles, at the advanced age of 82 years, nearly 50 of which were passed in this city. Dr. Griffin was the second pioneer educated physician to arrive in Los Angeles, Dr. Richard Den, who came in 1843, being the first. Both of these doctors being men of high personal character, as well as skilled in their profession, were naturally esteemed most highly, both by the native Californians and by the foreigners who settled here in early times; for the extensive demand for their professional services caused them to be widely known throughout Southern California. For many years, or till the infirmities of age compelled him to withdraw from active practice, Dr. Griffin stood among the very foremost physicians and surgeons of Los Angeles and of California, and as a citizen his standing was no less prominent. He more than any other one was the father of East Los Angeles. He was one of the original incorporators and a stockholder of both the Los Angeles City Water Co. and the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank.

When this city and section were terrorized by an organized banditti which killed Sheriff James R. Barton and party in January, 1857, and the city was placed under quasi martial law, Dr. Griffin by general consent was placed at the head of the semi-military defensive organization of our citizens.

On his social side Dr. Griffin was one of the most genial of men. He comforted and consoled his patients, as well as cured their physical ailments, when they were curable. Many of the older pioneers

of this society know well how genuine was the respect and friendship which were universally felt for such men as Dr. Griffin and Don Benito Wilson and a few others like them, by the Californians and Americans who lived here in the olden time, but who now have nearly all passed away. It is indeed worth more than mere material riches to die with the respect and affection of one's neighbors, although the sordid are not always able to grasp this view of the matter until too late or until the crisis comes that ends for them the drama of human life. They pile up vulgar riches as the chief good, which they cannot take with them either into the grave or into another world; and neglect a good name only to learn when compelled to make their exit, that they have none—or only the hollow mask of a good name, to leave behind them.

Some eight or nine years ago the writer of these lines took down from Dr. Griffin's own lips some notes of his life which were published, with a fine tipple steel engraving, in the *Illustrated History of Los Angeles County*. A few salient facts condensed from that sketch may not be without interest in this connection.

Dr. Griffin was born at Fincastle, Virginia, in 1816. His father, John Caswell Griffin, who died in 1823, was a native of Virginia, as was his father before him. His mother, Mary Hancock, was a daughter of George and Margaret (Strother) Hancock, both of prominent Virginia families. She died in 1825.

Being thus deprived of both his parents in early boyhood, he went to Louisville, Ky., where he lived until maturity with his maternal uncle, George Hancock, who gave him a classical education. In 1837 he was graduated from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, after which he practiced his profession at Louisville until 1840, when he entered the United States army as assistant surgeon and served as such under Gen. Worth in Florida, and at Fort Gibson on the southwest frontier. In 1846, being attached to the Army of the West under Gen. Kearny, with rank of captain, he proceeded to Santa Fé with the command, which set out from this place in September for California, arriving at the river Colorado in November, and at Warner's Ranch, in what is now San Diego county, Cal., Dec. 3, 1846. Dec. 6, the battle San Pasqual was fought with the Mexican forces, and on the 10th the command, with its wounded, arrived at San Diego, where Commodore Stockton with his squadron had arrived a short time before.

On the 1st of January, 1847, the two commands, being united, with Dr. Griffin, the doctor as ranking medical officer, set out for Los Angeles.

On the 8th the Americans met and repulsed the Mexican forces at the San Gabriel River, and crossed that stream some ten miles southeast of Los Angeles; and on the 9th another engagement took place at La Mesa, and on the 10th they took possession of Los Angeles, which then contained a population of only 3000 or 4000 souls.

About the 12th or 13th of Jan. Gen. Fremont's forces arrived at Los Angeles from the north. Gen. Kearny's command was transferred to San Diego, where Dr. Griffin was given charge of the general hospital.

In May, 1847, he was ordered to report for duty at Los Angeles, under Col. J. D. Stevenson, where he remained a year, when he was transferred to the staff as medical officer of Gen. Persifer F. Smith. From 1850 to '52 he was stationed at Benicia; he was then ordered to accompany Maj. Heintzelman in an expedition from San Diego against the Yuma Indians on the Colorado River; after which he returned to duty at Benicia. In '53 he was ordered to report for duty at Washington, D. C., where he remained till 1854, when he resigned his commission in the army and returned to California, and permanently located at Los Angeles, where he resided till his death.

In 1856 Dr. Griffin was married to Miss Louisa Hays, native of Maryland, sister of Judge Benjamin Hays, an historical character of Southern California. She died May 2, 1888, at the age of sixty-seven.

Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston married a sister of Dr. Griffin. After his death at the battle of Shiloh Mrs. Johnston resided for many years and until her death recently, with her brother and children in this city, where she was universally held in the highest estimation.